Recommendations by Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry

2237. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been suggested by the Confederation of India Food Trade and Industry for the exploitation of food processing units in the country; and

(b) whether Government are evolving a long term national policy on development of promotion and exports from food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Suggestions of the Confederation of Indian Food Trade & Industry for development of food processing industries inter-alis include reductions of taxes and duties, provision of land, organising fairs and exhibitions, concessional electricity tariff for post-harvest operations, development of processed food complexes and setting up of technology missions by State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Stretch of Four Laning

2238. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the likely stretch of 4 laning that can be taken up in the 8th Five year Plan as per present indication of funds available;

(b) how many kms. would then remain two laned; and

(c) what traffic in terms of CVD and PUC on these two laned section would be catering to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During the last three years of 8th Plan, a length of about 538 km. of National Highways has been sanactioned for four laning. In the remaining two years of the 8th Plan, a further length of about 426 km. is likely to be taken up for four laning.

(b) After completion of the envisaged four laning and the four laning already in progress, a length of about 24700 km. would still remain as two lane.

(c) As per the norms, the two lane section of highways cater to a traffic of 15000 PCUs per day.

Sudanese Foreign Minister's Statement on Kashmir

2239. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the Statement made by the Sudanese Foreign Minister on Kashmir during his visit to India that India should explain its stand properly to O.I.C. member countries;

(b) what are the steps taken to counter the propaganda of Pakistan that Kashmir issue is an Islamic issue before in O.I.C. countries and not a bilateral issue; and

(c) whether any delegations of Muslim NGOs have been sent to O.I.C. member countries to counter this propaganda and if so, the number of such delegations sent and the countries visited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has made clear its position on Kashmir to all friendly countries, including member countries of the Organisation of Islamic conference. The governments of these countries have been kept regularly informed of the facts which have also been made available on a regular basis to all sections of public opinion, media etc. in the countries concerned. Moreover, India follows a